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QUANTUM LEAP

VIETNAM

APRIL 7, 1970

Written

by

Donald P. Bellisario

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#66402

QUANTUM LEAP

. VIETNAM

APRIL 7, 1970

CAST

SAM BECKETT/HERBERT (MAGIC) WILLIAMS  
AL/THE OBSERVER

TOM BECKETT  
COL. DEKE GRIMWALD  
MAGGIE DAWSON  
BLASTER  
PREACHER  
DOC  
DEMPSEY  
SHAMOO  
TIKI  
HERBERT (MAGIC) WILLIAMS

EXTRAS:

MARINES  
NAPALM-SCARRED  
FACE WOMAN

SETS

INTERIORS:

SEAL ENCAMPMENT  
HUEY GUNSHIP  
BECKETT'S BAR AND GRILL  
COMMAND BUNKER  
COMMUNICATIONS BUNKER  
DOCK  
CHOO-CHOO'S BAR  
SEAL PBR  
DEFENSIVE BRUNKEN  
RIVER PATROL BOAT  
NATIVE SAMPAN

EXTERIORS:

MEKONG DELTA SEAL CAMP  
JUNGLE CANAL  
JUNGLE TRAIL  
JUNGLE PATH  
JUNGLE VILLAGE  
RIVER PATROL BOAT

QUANTUM LEAPVIETNAMAPRIL 7, 1970TEASER

1 LEAP IN 1

2 EXT. JUNGLE CANAL - DAY - ON SAM 2

reaching out for his brother Tom as he was when he leaped in the previous episode. Only now he's waist deep in scummy water with a PRC-77 radio on his back and a Stoner 63-A light machine gun in his outstretched hand. His face is camouflaged with green and black makeup. He has a green scarf wrapped around his head and is wearing Levis, a cammo top and a nylon vest packed with ammo and grenades.

SAM

Tom!

3 THE FIREFIGHT - SERIES OF SHOTS - SFX 3

The other six members of the SEAL team sneaking up the canal with Sam instantly open fire in all directions, filling the jungle with a maelstrom of red tracers, exploding foliage and flying shell casings. The Viet Cong, who had been about to ambush the SEALs from both sides of the canal, are torn apart by the barrage. For ten seconds the fury continues and then ceases as suddenly as it began. The jungle swallows the sound and the destruction until all that remains is a haze of acrid smoke and the groans of the dying Viet Cong.

4 ON SAM 4

When the inferno erupted he instinctively submerged until only his shocked eyes and nose were above the water. As he slowly emerges from the green scum, the SEAL in front of him turns.

SEAL'S VOICE

Damn, Magic.

5 SAM'S POV - HIS BROTHER TOM

5

looking back at him with a mixture of admiration and awe.

TOM

How'd you know they were there?

6 BACK ON SAM

6

His heart leaps into his throat as he recognizes his big brother.

SAM

(joyous)

Oh, boy!

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

## 7 EXT. MEKONG DELTA SEAL CAMP - DAY - MATTE 7

Located on the bank of a muddy river, this outpost is nothing more than a collection of sandbagged bunkers and supply stacks surrounded by barbed wire, claymore mines and trip flares. The only wood structure is a machine gun tower overlooking the dock which is floated on empty 55-gallon gasoline drums. Somewhere, "For What It's Worth" is playing on a radio.

## 8 ON A HUEY GUNSHIP 8

squatting with drooping rotor blades on the helipad in the center of the compound. The Air-Cav insignia on the nose identifies it as: DEKE'S DRAGON. It has an M-5 grenade launcher in the nose and belt-fed M-60s sticking out the side doors. The gunners are asleep in the shade of the rear deck, while the copilot negotiates with a couple of Marines for a VC flag they picked up on a recent incursion.

## 9 ON A VIETNAMESE WOMAN 9

hunkered down a few meters from the chopper. Her name is TiTi. And it's difficult to tell how old she is or what she really looks like in the black shade of her conical hat. She is staring out, intently, at the muddy river.

## 10 ON BECKETT'S BAR AND GRILL 10

Built atop the sandbagged Command Bunker overlooking the river, it consists of a bright blue beach umbrella liberated from the Continental Hotel in Saigon, a gas grill made from a 55-gallon oil drum, canvas seats from a Huey and a bamboo bar. Standing at the bar, sipping warm beers, are Lt. Colonel Deke Grimwald and correspondent Maggie Dawson.

## 11 FEATURE DEKE 11

He's wearing a baseball cap with an Air-Cav insignia, crisply-starched fatigues, spit-polished jump boots, a .45 automatic and, even in the humid heat, a yellow cavalry scarf. He's a West Pointer who takes every mission

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED

11

seriously, including his current one which is, apparently, to impress Maggie's breasts since he can't take his eyes off that portion of her anatomy.

12 FEATURE MAGGIE

12

She's just over forty and still has the lean, haughty looks she had as a top model twenty years ago. Since moving from in front of the camera to behind it, she's covered three wars and has more unit patches on her tightly-tailored cammo jumpsuit than a Hollywood producer. Maggie's got the reputation for using her body to get into restricted areas, which is why Lt. Colonel Deke Grimwald flew her into this SEAL encampment.

COLONEL DEKE

(Southern accent)

Even though I was only three, it's as clear to me as if it happened yesterday.

(beat)

It was a Saturday. I know because Dad always inspected the Battalion on Saturday.

MAGGIE

(realizing)

Grimwald. General Max Grimwald is your father?

COLONEL DEKE

Yes, ma'am.

MAGGIE

Big shoes to fill, Colonel.

COLONEL DEKE

Mine are a size-and-a-half bigger.

13 ANOTHER ANGLE

13

Maggie laughs. It bursts forth big and bawdy, like a man's. As it dies away, they hear the sound of an engine echoing downriver. Maggie grabs her 35mm Nikon and steps away from the bar.

COLONEL DEKE

So, I'm on the reviewing stand with Dad this Saturday morning, when the base photographer takes my picture.

CONTINUED

13 CONTINUED

13

Maggie puts the camera to her eye.

14 CAMERA POV - THE RIVER

14

A Navy PBR emerges from the foliage with a taut towrope strung out behind it.

COLONEL DEKE'S VOICE

He caught me saluting the colors as they passed in review. It was so cute they printed it in the base newspaper.

15 BACK ON MAGGIE AND DEKE

15

She begins to grin at what she sees through the camera.

COLONEL DEKE

That was nineteen thirty-eight.  
(beat)

Twenty-five years later another three-year-old did the same thing.

MAGGIE

(referring to what she sees)

I'll be damned.

16 CAMERA POV - RIVER PATROL BOAT

16

Water skiing behind it is a cammie-faced SEAL with a build like Schwarzenegger. He's stripped to his shorts and has a .38 pistol holstered low on his hips.

17 BACK ON COLONEL DEKE AND MAGGIE

17

He nods solemnly thinking Maggie's comment referred to his little story.

COLONEL DEKE

It never seemed fair, somehow. I did it first and only got my picture in the base newspaper.

(beat)

John-John's salute made 'Life.'

Maggie slowly looks from the eyepiece to Colonel Deke.

the twenty-year-old waterskiing SEAL, who looks like he should be hanging ten on the Banzai Pipeline, which is what he was doing until two years ago.

## BLASTER

Hoo-yaw!

## 19 INT. RIVER PATROL BOAT - DAY

19

The other SEALs are smoking and laughing as they, and the MST (Mobile Support Team) sailors who run the PBR, watch Blaster ski. At first glance the SEALs seem similarly dressed and armed, but a closer look reveals each has customized his wardrobe and weapons system to suit his needs. Preacher (age 23) is toting a Bible and an AK-47. Shamco (age 19) is carrying a modified M-60 machine gun and has 450 rounds of linked ammo wrapped around his chest. Sam/Magic, Tom and BMO Dempsey (age 34) are armed with Stoner machine guns and Doc (age 26) carries an M-16 and medical kit. Blaster's M-16/XM-147, shirt and vest with dozens of pockets for 40mm grenade and M-16 clips lay in the bottom of the boat. All their faces are cammied green and black.

## 20 CLOSE ON SAM

20

He's the only one not watching Blaster. He is staring across the boat at his brother, Tom.

## SAM'S VOICE OVER

It was unreal. In the space of a Leap I'd gone from the depths of despair to the summit of hope.

## 21 ON TOM

21

seated across the boat from Sam, grinning as he watches Blaster ski.

## SAM'S VOICE OVER

He was alive. My brother Tom was still alive and I was in Vietnam with him!

## 22 FEATURE SAM

22

He can't help but grin. Tom catches the grin out of the corner of his eye and turns to Sam.

CONTINUED



TOM

What?

SAM

Nothing. I'm just glad you're...ah,  
we're alive.

TOM

Thanks to you.

DEMPSEY

I ain't seen nuthin' like you,  
Magic, and I've been in this man's  
navy for sixteen years.

DOC

Rog that. Eleven missions and the  
worst I've had to treat is mosquito  
bites.

PREACHER

Praise the Lord.

SHAMOO

And Magic.

ALL

Praise the Lord and Magic.

They bow to Sam who isn't quite sure what he's done to rate  
this adoration.

## 23 FEATURE BMO DEMPSEY

23

a twenty-year-man with hard eyes and harder muscles as he  
spits a stream of tobacco juice over the lee of the boat.  
He senses something unusual and sniffs the air like an old  
hound dog. He looks puzzled until he turns forward and  
peers over the helmsman's shoulder.

DEMPSEY

I'll be damned.

(loud voice)

Round eye. Twelve O'Clock.

The SEALs instantly look forward.

## 24 THEIR POV - THE DOCK

24

Colonel Deke and Maggie are walking out on it to meet the  
incoming boat.

25 ON THE PBR

25

Shamoo cups his hands and yells back to Blaster.

SHAMOO

Blaster!

(pointing)

Round eye!

26 ON BLASTER

26

He squints forward, sees Maggie and wipes out.

27 FEATURE SAM

27

Everyone has moved forward for a better view of Maggie, except Sam. He looks back in shock as Blaster disappears in the brown, muddy water. He grabs his brother's arm and points aft.

SAM

Tom! He's down!

TOM

(nods)

Took a woman to do it.

Then Tom moves forward and jumps off as the PBR pulls alongside the dock. Sam is left staring in open-mouthed wonder.

28 ON THE DOCK

28

The rest of the SEALs bail out around Tom before the boat has even stopped. Maggie gives them a big smile.

MAGGIE

Hiya, boys.

They greet her with grins, smiles and a liberal sprinkling of "Hiya, ma'am."

COLONEL DEKE

(to Dempsey)

Are you in charge here?

DEMPSEY

No...I wouldn't say that, sir.

CONTINUED

TOM  
(saluting)  
Lieutenant Beckett, sir. This is my  
squad.

COLONEL DEKE  
Where do you think you are,  
Lieutenant? The Club Med?

Sam pushes through the men.

SAM  
Tom. He's drowning!

TOM  
Who?

SAM  
The waterskier!

Tom looks curiously at Sam and then the other SEALs. They  
all look puzzled, then they begin to smile at what they  
perceive to be Sam pulling an inside joke.

MAGGIE  
(looking out)  
He hasn't come up?

■ ■ ■  
No!

DEMPSEY  
It happens.

SHAMOO  
Not to Blaster. He skied all the  
way to Saigon once.

DOC  
On one ski.

PREACHER  
That's gospel.

■ ■ ■  
This is your fault, ma'am.

MAGGIE  
My fault?

TOM  
Blaster lost it when he saw you.

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED- (2)

28

COLONEL DEKE  
Lieutenant! Do something!

TOM  
What, sir?

COLONEL DEKE  
Go in after him!

[REDACTED]  
(looking back)  
The Mekong's thicker than mud pie.  
We can't see six inches under water.

COLONEL DEKE  
You're Navy SEALs! Feel around  
where he splashed in!

TOM  
We're five miles from the coast and  
the tide's going out. That means  
there's a seven-knot current....

DEMPSEY  
(professional)  
Eight-knot, sir.

[REDACTED]  
...an eight-knot current running.  
Blaster won't be anywhere near where  
he wiped out.  
(looks out)  
In fact, by now he ought to be right  
about....

Blaster surfaces next to the dock.

[REDACTED]  
...here.

29 ANOTHER ANGLE

29

The SEALs laugh. Sam even grins in relief. Maggie thinks  
it's funny as hell. Of course, Colonel Deke feels he's  
been had, which he has. Blaster climbs onto the dock  
wondering what all the laughter is about.

COLONEL DEKE  
(controlled)  
I want a word with you, Lieutenant.

CONTINUED

29 CONTINUED.

29

TOM

Yes, sir.

(to Dempsey)

Let's get these weapons cleaned,  
Chief. Then stand them down.

DEMPSEY

Aye, aye, sir.

Tom walks to the end of the dock with Colonel Deke and the  
squad closes in on Maggie.

[REDACTED]

You're Maggie Dawson. Right?

MAGGIE

In the flesh.

They all ooooh at her answer and Maggie laughs.

30

[REDACTED]

30

as he automatically follows his brother and the Colonel.

COLONEL DEKE

I'm going to disregard your little  
joke, Lieutenant, because you're  
coming off a hot mission....

He notices Sam standing behind Tom and stops. Tom turns.

[REDACTED]

What is it, Magic?

SAM

Ah...well....

(beat)

Nothing, I guess.

Sam gives a sheepish grin and trots back toward the other  
SEALs and Maggie. They watch him for a beat, then resume.

COLONEL DEKE

As I was saying, I'm going to  
disregard your little joke at my  
expense because you're coming off a  
hot mission and because we're  
fraternity brothers.

TOM

I wasn't in a fraternity, Colonel, I  
went to Annapolis.

CONTINUED

COLONEL DEKE  
(fingering his  
ring)  
I went to West Point. I think of  
Academy men as fraternity brothers.  
Don't you?

Not during the Army/Navy game.

COLONEL DEKE  
(deep breath)  
Look, Lieutenant, I can use your  
help. I've been escorting Miss  
Dawson on an aerial tour of the  
Delta.

TOM  
(looking back)  
Tough duty.

COLONEL DEKE  
(hinting)  
You'll have a chance to find out.

TOM  
(wary)  
How's that?

COLONEL DEKE  
Well...I sort of promised Miss  
Dawson she could go on your next  
mission.

On Tom's reaction, we....

CUT TO

31 EXT. BECKETT'S BAR AND GRILL - DAY

31

A Jimmy Hendrix tape blasts away as the SEAL squad downs  
warm beer while stripping and cleaning their weapons.  
Although Sam is familiar with guns, he doesn't have the  
vaguest idea of how to field-strip a Stoner. So he watches  
Dempsey and emulates him. Sam's a bit klutzy but  
everyone's too busy eyeballing Maggie to notice.

MAGGIE  
They told me you had green faces,  
webbed feet and dripped.

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED

31

BLASTER

This gyrene in Saigon told me you  
had the biggest, roundest....

Shamoo and Doc both clamp their hands over Blaster's mouth.

SHAMOO

Sorry, ma'am.

DOC

He's on his third tour, ma'am.

MAGGIE

Boys, after three wars and five  
insurrections, I'm used to it.

They shrug and release Blaster.

BLASTER

(pointedly to the  
other SEALs)

I was just going to say....

(to Maggie)

...he told me you had the biggest,  
roundest camera lens in Vietnam.

Maggie blinks in surprise, then pulls the lens out of her  
bag.

MAGGIE

It's called a fisheye. And if you  
boys are swapping stories about the  
size of my lenses, I'm losing it.

32 ON SAM

32

He laughs with the others as he tries to reassemble the  
Stoner he's stripped and cleaned. It won't go back  
together.

OBSERVER'S VOICE

You can't slide the barrel back in  
unless the cocking handle's cocked.

Sam turns, and we....

33 WIDEN TO REVEAL AL

33

He's dressed in Naval whites and is wearing the gold stars  
of an Admiral. Sam follows Al's instructions and the  
barrel slides back into the Stoner.

CONTINUED

33 CONTINUED

33

**OBSERVER**

Combat survival parties. There's nothing like 'em.

(beat)

'Course, we didn't have beer on board ship or anyone who looked like her.

(beat)

She's got the biggest....

**SAM**

(cutting in)

Camera lens in Vietnam. I know.

Sam walks away looking for a place to talk. We hold on Al as he eyes Maggie.

**OBSERVER**

That too.

34 ANGLE ON THE BAR

34

Dempsey spots Sam walking away and calls out to him.

**DEMPSEY**

Where you going, Magic?

**SAM**

Ah...I thought since we had a visitor I should take a shower.

The SEALs look from Maggie to their mud-covered bodies and take off for the showers. All except Blaster, who stays behind.

**BLASTER**

I already had my shower.

(beat)

Another beer?

**MAGGIE**

(eyeing his physique)

For starters.

**BLASTER**

(looking to heaven)

Thank you, Lord.

Maggie laughs.



35 ON SAM AND AL

35

as the rest of the SEAL team pounds past them stripping off their gear on the way to the outdoor showers.

**SAM**  
You'd think they'd never seen a woman.

**OBSERVER**  
They haven't seen one like Maggie Dawson since they started this tour...five months ago.

**SAM**  
In December. December, nineteen-sixty-nine is when Tom took his squad to Vietnam.  
(excited)  
I'm in Tom's squad, Al. I'm in my brother's squad! And he's still alive!  
(realizing)  
Five months ago. This is April?

**OBSERVER**  
April the seventh.

**SAM**  
(chilled)  
He was killed on April the eighth.

**OBSERVER**  
Tomorrow afternoon.

They both look to the end of the dock.

36 CLOSE ON TOM AND COLONEL DEKE

36

Tom laughs. It's a warm laugh and one we don't want to see silenced.

37 ON SAM AND AL

37

On their sober faces, we....

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

38 EXT. SEAL ENCAMPMENT - SUNSET - MATTE

38

James Taylor's "Fire and Rain" is playing loudly over a radio. The PBR is docked and there are a number of native sampans in the river.

39 EXT. NATIVE SAMPAN - SUNSET

39

A woman with a napalm-scarred face is slowly poling the boat upriver, studying the SEAL encampment from beneath her conical hat.

40 WOMAN'S POV - SEAL ENCAMPMENT

40

The crew of Deke's Dragon is eating rations out of tins. The copilot is chatting and holding up the Viet Cong flag he traded from the Marines. Near them, TiTi squats on her haunches as when we first saw her.

OBSERVER'S VOICE

Technically you're not here to save  
Tom's life.

41 INT. SEAL SQUAD BUNKER - SUNSET

41

Within this sandbagged room, each SEAL has created his own little world. Preacher has an altar. Blaster, a corner wall-papered with pinups. Doc's area is neat and regulation. Dempsey has a rocking chair. Shamoo has a surfboard above his cot. Tom has a small desk next to his rack with pictures of his family on it. Perhaps the most unique area of all is Magic's (Sam's). Festooned with rabbit's feet, feathers, joss sticks, oriental charms and fetishes, it looks like the home of a culturally-schizoid soothsayer. Having showered and cleaned up, Sam is pulling on a T-shirt and shorts as Al paces back and forth. The rest of the squad is gone.

(angrily)

Don't give me that crap!

CONTINUED

41 CONTINUED\_

41

**OBSERVER**

You want me to lie to you? Or do  
you want the truth so you can know  
what you're up against?

**SAM**

(after a beat)

The truth.

**OBSERVER**

Okay.

(checking computer)

You're Signalman Second Class  
Herbert Williams.

42 ON A MIRROR

42

as Sam looks into it and sees the reflection of a lean,  
young black man with intense eyes.

**OBSERVER'S VOICE**

But your buddies call you....

**SAM**

(finishing)

Magic.

(turns to Al)

Why?

43 ANGLE ON SAM AND AL

43

as the Observer glances up from the hand computer.

**OBSERVER**

Because to this squad you are magic.

(beat)

The first month they were in Nam  
nothing went right. Missions  
failed. Casualties were high. They  
thought they were jinxed.

(beat)

Then you joined them.

(beat)

As you stepped off the boat, Charlie  
shelled the camp. Blew up the dock  
and everything within fifty meters  
of it.

(pointed)

Everything, but you.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

OBSERVER (Cont'd)

(beat)

You didn't get a scratch. The next day in the jungle you trip on a booby trap.

(beat)

It doesn't go off.

(beat)

They started calling you Magic.

SAM

They think I'm their talisman.

OBSERVER

You are. They haven't taken a casualty since you came on board.

SAM

Until tomorrow.

OBSERVER

Until tomorrow.

(checks computer)

Blaster, Shamoo and your brother are all killed in action tomorrow.

SAM

(incredulous)

And I'm not here to change that?

OBSERVER

According to Ziggy, you're here to see that the mission succeeds.

SAM

What's the difference!

OBSERVER

People get killed on successful missions, Sam.

SAM

(determined)

Not on this one.

(beat)

Now, what do I have to do?

OBSERVER

I don't know.

SAM

(incredulous)

You don't know?

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED (2)

43

OBSERVER

All Ziggy's come up with so far is the code name...Operation Lazarus. And the casualty list. I don't even know the objective.

(beat)

These SEAL operations were all classified Top Secret and....

SAM

You've got a Top Secret clearance!

OBSERVER

(pointedly)

...and took place over thirty-five years ago.

(beat)

The combat reports are buried in a Pentagon computer, an old Pentagon computer.

(beat)

Ziggy's having a difficult time interfacing with it. It's like trying to get two U.N. members to talk without an interpreter.

SAM

Ziggy better interface because I really don't give a damn about the mission. All I care about is my brother. And if I have to shoot him in the leg to prevent him from being killed tomorrow, I will.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

And what if he was killed when the slick taking him to the hospital for treatment of a leg wound was shot down?

(beat)

Until we know how Tom died, we don't know how to save him!

44 ANOTHER ANGLE

44

Tom angrily enters the bunker, stripping off his gear and tossing it onto his bunk. He is closely followed by Colonel Deke who is appealing to Tom more than arguing with him.

CONTINUED

44 CONTINUED.

44

COLONEL DEKE

Lieutenant, with the press Maggie will give you, we're talking a unit citation.

(pointedly)

Maybe even a Navy Cross for the commanding officer.

(angrily)

You could hang a Medal of Honor around my neck and I wouldn't take a reporter on a mission; especially a female reporter!

MAGGIE'S VOICE

If you gotta take one, we're the best kind.

45 FEATURE MAGGIE

standing in the entrance, looking very sexy.

OBSERVER

She's got a point.

Fortunately, I don't 'gotta' take one, ma'am.

Maggie glances at Colonel Deke which Tom picks up on.

And not even colonels from MACV-SOG can change that.

Colonel Deke stiffens slightly, but says nothing. Maggie shifts tactics and approaches Tom with a smile.

MAGGIE

Lieutenant...I've been on night patrol with the Marines, in a tank with the Israelis, even flew on a bombing raid over Haiphong.

(beat)

I can take it.

TOM

Maybe you can, but we can't.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

45 CONTINUED.

45

TOM (Cont'd)

(beat)

This is a SEAL squad, ma'am. We're  
so in tune with each other that  
when....

(notices Sam)

...Magic farts, my cheeks ripple.

(beat)

I won't let anything or anyone  
interfere with that rapport.

MAGGIE

(after a beat)

I get the point, Lieutenant.

(deep breath)

I don't want to waste the trip.  
Could I stick around for a few days  
and shoot some photos of you guys in  
camp?

COLONEL DEKE

I don't see why that wouldn't be  
acceptable.

MAGGIE

Great. Where do I bunk?

OBSERVER

My place.

TOM

(to Sam)

Magic. Fix Miss Dawson a cot in the  
Communications Bunker.

46 FEATURE SAM

46

He has no idea where the radio bunker is located.

OBSERVER

(prompting)

Aye, aye, sir.

SAM

Aye, aye, sir.

Sam's eyes appeal to Al for help as he crosses toward the  
sandbagged entrance.

OBSERVER

Look for a bunker with lots of whip  
antennas.

CONTINUED

46 CONTINUED

46

COLONEL DEKE

Magic, I have a Chieu Hoi waiting by my chopper.

SAM

Chieu Hoi?

OBSERVER

A VC guerrilla who's joined our side. Personally, I never trust them.

COLONEL DEKE

Send her in, please.

SAM

(surprised)

Her?

COLONEL DEKE

Do you always repeat everything?

TOM

Magic, are your ears still ringing from the firefight?

SAM

(rubs his ears)

Ah...yeah. A little.

WIM

Have Doc check 'em out.

HAM

Right.

OBSERVER

(pointed)

Aye....

SAM

(quickly)

Aye, aye, sir.

Al shakes his head.

47 ANOTHER ANGLE

47

Sam exits with Maggie and the Observer moves in beside the Colonel and Tom.

CONTINUED



47 CONTINUED

47

COLONEL DEKE

I envy you, Lieutenant.

(beat)

Maggie wants to go on the mission tomorrow so bad that she'll make a bitch in heat look like a nun.

OBSERVER

Oh boy.

TOM

(moving on)

What's the mission, Colonel?

Colonel Deke smiles imperceptibly as he opens his brief and pulls out some TOP SECRET files and pictomaps.

COLONEL DEKE

A beaut. I wasn't kidding about the commendations and medals.

(beat)

MACV-SOG is calling it Operation Lazarus.

(using the map)

The target is ten clicks upriver from here at Mai-Choi.

Tití enters behind them with her conical hat still low over her eyes.

TITI

You send for me, Colonel?

COLONEL DEKE

(turning to her)

Tití, this is Lieutenant Beckett.

(beat)

His SEALs are the ones you'll be leading to your village.

MM CLOSE ON TITI

48

She looks up and we see her face for the first time. It is so young and beautiful, it's difficult imagining her as a communist guerrilla fighter. Over her inscrutable eyes, we hear rock music, noise and the SEALs chanting....

SEAL TEAM VOICES

Forty-six! Forty-seven!

Forty-eight!

CUT TO

49 INT. CHOO-CHOO'S VIETNAMESE BAR - NIGHT

49

Typical of the Vietnamese sloop-chutes that sprang up around the American camps, Choo-Choo's is nothing more than a tin shack filled with scantily-clad bar girls, red lights, booze and noise. Choo-Choo is a short and thin dapper dresser in his fifties with a small black moustache and a vacuous smile. He is counting along with the SEALs as Blaster does fingertip push-ups on the bar with a B-girl on his back. Maggie watches, fascinated, as Blaster sweats and strains to reach fifty. All of the SEALs pack at least one weapon.

## SAM'S VOICE

Tom never talked about what SEALs did off-duty. And after a few hours with Bravo squad, I knew why.

(beat)

Mom would have had a cow.

## SEALS

Forty-nine! Fifty!

The SEALs give a Hoo-yaw yell and Blaster collapses, tossing the bar girl off his back and into Shamoo's arms.

(breathless)

You lose, Choo-Choo.

Choo-Choo shakes his head and begins uncapping beers and pushing them across the bar.

## CHOO-CHOO

Green faces not human.

## DEMPSEY

Never bet a thirsty SEAL he can't do something.

50 ON BLASTER

50

He rolls onto his back and begins pouring beer down his throat in one long swallow. Maggie leans in and wipes the sweat from his hairy chest with her forefinger.

## MAGGIE

(sexy)

That was...inspirational.

Blaster chokes on his beer.

## 51 ON THE BAR MIRROR

51

Magic's reflection stares back at Sam who's sitting between BMO Dempsey and Maggie at the bar.

DEMPSEY

You think that was something, Miss Dawson, you should see what Magic can do.

On Magic's surprised look, we pan off the mirror and past Choo-Choo to....

## 52 FEATURE SAM

52

as he tries to figure out what the hell Dempsey is talking about. Shamoo leans over his shoulder.

SHAMOO

Magic's truly inhuman.

CHOO-CHOO

(handing Sam a beer)

Magic double-jointed.

SAM

Double-jointed?

DOC

There's no such thing as double-jointed, Choo-Choo.

SAM

That's right. There's not.

CHOO-CHOO

(points to Sam)

You double-jointed. Ask any my girls.

The Bar girls giggle and Sam blushes.

MAGGIE

This is getting interesting.

(beat)

What is this...thing you can do?

SAM

Well...ah....

SHAMOO

Show her, Magic.

CONTINUED

DEMPSEY  
Shamoo, you know he can't.

IAN  
That's for sure.

MAGGIE  
Why?

IRVING  
It's classified...Top Secret.

SHAMOO  
I'll bet she's got a security  
clearance.  
(turns to her)  
Don't you, Maggie?

MAGGIE  
(pulling a paper)  
Signed by Westmoreland himself.

IRVING  
(checking her  
papers)  
I guess it will be okay.  
(to Sam)  
Just do your 'Good Morning Darlings'  
first.

SAM/MAGGIE  
'Good Morning Darlings'?

SHAMOO  
To stretch his groin muscles.

IRVING  
Physiological necessity.

MAGGIE  
(catching on)  
These 'Good Morning Darlings'  
wouldn't by any chance be a two-man  
exercise, would they?

DEMPSEY  
They do require two consenting  
adults.

MAGGIE  
One of which is a female.

CONTINUED

52 CONTINUED. (2) -----

52

BRANDON

She knows the exercise.

MAGGIE

(laughing)

You bastards!

DEMPSEY

Try not to hold that against us,  
Maggie.

53 ON THE MIRROR - SFX

53

As the others laugh, the Observer rushes through the mirror (his image doesn't reflect) and up to Sam. He is obviously disturbed by the readout on his hand computer.

OBSERVER

Sam. Ziggy bypassed the old  
Pentagon computer and interfaced an  
ancillary source...newspapers.

SAM

That's great!

DEMPSEY

Thank you. I thought it was rather  
humorous myself.

OBSERVER

He dug up a photo-story under  
Maggie's byline.

(beat)

It was about a sapper attack on this  
camp, tonight.

SAM

Sappers...tonight!

The SEALs abruptly stop talking and laughing and turn to  
Sam.

54 DEMPSEY'S POV - SAM

54

He is staring intently at Al, who Dempsey can't see.  
Maggie looks from Sam to Dempsey.

MAGGIE

Sappers?

55 ANOTHER ANGLE

55

Dempsey lays a hand on Maggie's arm.

DEMPSEY

Shhhhh.

OBSERVER

They slipped in from the river on a sampan and hit around midnight. Wounded two sailors, three Marines and blew up Deka's chopper as he was lifting off....  
(looks up)  
...killing him instantly.

56 FEATURE SAM

56

He studies Al for a beat, then turns to Dempsey to speak.

OBSERVER

Before you say anything. I had Ziggy run some numbers.

(beat)

There's a fifty-two percent chance this is what you're here to do. To save Colonel Grimwald and the others.

(beat)

If that's true, as soon as the attack's over you'll leap and you won't be around to save your brother tomorrow.

57 CLOSE ON SAM

57

as he balances that, wa....

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

58 INT. CHOO-CHOO'S BAR - NIGHT

58

Everyone is staring at Sam who's twisting on the moral dilemma: should he try to save Colonel Deke at the risk of losing his brother? It only takes him an instant to decide. He turns to Dempsey.

SAM

Sappers are coming across the river at midnight.

OBSERVER

(proud of him)  
Tough decision, kid.

DEMPSEY

Hoo-yaw!

The SEALS echo his call as Maggie turns to Dempsey.

MAGGIE

How could he know?

DEMPSEY

(arming his Stoner)  
That's why we call him Magic!

Maggie looks to Sam, who is lost in the fear that he may have sacrificed his last chance to save his brother.

CUT TO

■ EXT. SEALS ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

59

Carrying his Stoner, Tom escorts Colonel Deke and TiTi across the compound toward the Huey which is spooling up.

COLONEL DEKE

You'll insert on a small canal.  
TiTi says the trails there are heavily booby-trapped so you'll have to stay in the water.

(beat)

I'll station a pair of Broncos ten minutes out for support.

CONTINUED

TOM

If you're in a world of hurt, ten minutes can be forever, Colonel.

COLONEL DEKE

Any closer and we risk alerting Charlie.

TITI

Major Quan most vigilant. Leave village if American planes nearby.

COLONEL DEKE

TiTi says you won't be facing anything heavier than AK-47s.

(slight dig)

Surely SEALs can handle that for ten minutes.

Before Tom can reply, his squad comes running up with Dempsey in the lead and Maggie trailing.

DEMPSEY

(breathing hard)

Magic says sappers are crossing the river.

COLONEL DEKE

How does he know?

TOM

Magic's got a sixth sense.

60 ANOTHER ANGLE TO INCLUDE THE OBSERVER

60

standing beside him.

OBSERVER

You could call me that.

TOM

If he says sappers are coming, Colonel, sappers are coming.

The Colonel sees Tom's sincere and turns to his chopper.

COLONEL DEKE

I'll contact you on Tac-two.

CONTINUED



TOM  
(grabbing him)  
No!  
(letting go)  
I want to set up an ambush. You fly  
up and down that river and they'll  
know we're onto them.

Colonel Deke stares at Tom for a beat, then signals his  
copilot to cut the engine. Tom turns to his men.

TOM  
Doc. Alert the Marines. Tell them  
we're setting up an ambush and to  
slip into the bunkers.

DOC  
(taking off)  
Aye, aye, sir.

(deferring)  
Chief....

DEMPSEY  
Preacher. Take the bunker south of  
the dock. Blaster. Set up near the  
wire on Preacher's right.  
(beat)  
With the Lieutenant's permission,  
I'll man the Minigun on the PBR.

TOM  
(shakes his head)  
I want you on the claymores.  
(beat)  
Magic. You take the Minigun.  
(beat)  
No shooting until the claymores  
blow.

The men nod and head for their positions.

He swallows hard and looks to the Observer.

OBSERVER  
It's show time!

Al punches in coordinates and promptly disappears. ~~Sam~~  
rolls his eyes and sprints for the dock.

62 FEATURE TOM

62

He turns to the two women and offers Maggie his sidearm.

TOM

I doubt you'll need this, but....

MAGGIE

All I shoot is cameras.

TiTi doesn't hesitate. She grabs the pistol.

TOM

Take cover in the Communications  
Bunker.

TiTi nods and runs for the sandbagged bunker with Maggie following. Tom and BMO Dempsey make for the Command Bunker with Colonel Deke following. Half-dressed Marines are emerging from the dark and slipping into the defensive bunkers.

63 EXT. SEALS PBR - NIGHT

63

Al is standing in the bow beside the Minigun urging Sam on as he sprints down the dock toward the boat.

OBSERVER

Come on, Sam! They're going to hit  
us any minute!

64 FEATURE SAM

64

He vaults onto the deck of the PBR and grabs the grips on the Minigun, swinging it toward the river.

OBSERVER

(pointing)

The safety's on!

Sam snaps the safety off and looks out over the sight.

65 SAM'S POV - THE MEKONG RIVER - NIGHT

65

Nothing can be seen moving on the dark, black water.

66 BACK ON SAM AND THE OBSERVER

66

staring intensely into the dark.

OBSERVER

Fire in short bursts. This baby  
spits out 6000 rounds a minute!

67 INT. COMMUNICATIONS BUNKER - NIGHT

67

TiTi is sitting behind the radio console as Maggie deftly unloads her Nikon and rummages through a photo bag for film.

TITI

Too dark for pictures.

MAGGIE

Honey, this film can get exposure where the sun don't shine.

Maggie slams the camera shut, snaps on a hi-speed lens and runs back outside. We hold on TiTi for a beat.

68. INT. DEFENSIVE BUNKER - NIGHT

68

Blaster stares out across the barrel of his awesome weapon. He doesn't even blink as a pair of eager young Marines dive into the bunker beside him.

BLASTER

(finger to his  
lips)

Shhhhhhhh.

69 INT. COMMAND BUNKER - NIGHT

69

Dempsey has the triggers for the claymores lined up in front of him. Colonel Deke is peering through a Starlite scope.

COLONEL DEKE

I don't see a damn thing.

TOM

Arm the claymores.

Dempsey throws a switch. Tom glances around to check his men and suddenly curses.

Damn!

70 TOM'S POV - MAGGIE

70

standing atop the Communications Bunker, focusing her camera.

- 71 BACK ON THE MEN - 71
- Tom scrambles out of the bunker and sprints across the compound to Maggie.
- DEMPSEY  
(to Colonel Deka)  
Round eyes.
- 72 ON MAGGIE 72
- She turns in time to see Tom sweep her off her feet.
- 73 INT. COMMUNICATIONS BUNKER - NIGHT 73
- TiTi spins around and brings the pistol to bear as Tom carries Maggie into the bunker and dumps her on the floor.
- TOM  
(to TiTi)  
If she tries to leave, again...  
shoot her.
- Tom rushes out. Maggie gets right back up and is going out the door after him until she hears TiTi cock the pistol.
- 74 CLOSE ON TITI 74
- holding the pistol on Maggie and staring with those inscrutable eyes.
- 75 EXT. SEAL PBR - NIGHT 75
- Sam is behind the Minigun with the Observer at his side. Al is punching on the computer.
- OBSERVER  
They'll hit any second, Sam.
- SAM  
(whispered)  
That's what you said two minutes ago!
- 76 INT. DEFENSIVE BUNKER - NIGHT 76
- Blaster squints out at the black river, his finger poised on the trigger.

77 INT. PREACHER'S BUNKER - NIGHT 77

He's mouthing silent prayers as he stares into the darkness.

78 INT. COMMAND BUNKER - NIGHT 78

Colonel Dake looks up from the Starlite scope as Tom rejoins him and Dempsey in the bunker.

COLONEL DEKE

I'm telling you there's nothing out there...except Magic's imagination.

Tom grabs the scope and looks.

79 TOM'S POV - RIVER THROUGH THE STARLITE SCOPE 79

The blue-green image is almost as bright as day. The river is empty.

80 FEATURE TOM 80

as he looks up from the Starlite scope with a puzzled expression on his face. Colonel Dake shakes his head slightly and laughs.

COLONEL DEKE

(quietly mocking)

Hoo-yaw.

Over Tom's embarrassed expression....

OBSERVER'S VOICE

You saved that ungrateful bastard's life and he mocked you!

CUT TO

81 EXT. SEAL COMPOUND - NIGHT 81

In the background, Dake's Dragon is lifting off as Sam and Al walk toward the Communications Bunker.

Who cares? I'm still here, Al. I changed history and didn't leap.

OBSERVER

You changed history, Sam. But I'll be damned if I know how you did it.

CONTINUED

81 CONTINUED.

81

SAM

The sappers must have seen us and  
called off the attack.

OBSERVER

It's too dark to see you.  
(checking computer)  
It had to be something else.

LIV

What difference does it make? We  
did it. If we can save Deke, we can  
save Tom!

Sam enters the Communications Bunker and we hold on Al.

CUT TO

82 INT. COMMUNICATIONS BUNKER - NIGHT

82

Sam enters to find Titi holding the pistol on Maggie. Al  
is already there.

MAGGIE

Thank God!  
(beat)  
Get Madame Diem to lighten up.

TITI

Is over?

SAM

Is over.

Titi looks at Maggie and without another word, exits.  
Maggie lets out a sigh of relief.

MAGGIE

I think the bitch would have shot  
me.

OBSERVER

I'd bet on it.

83 ON SAM AND AL

83

Sam sits at the radio and looks it over. He speaks as much  
to Al, who's standing beside him, as to Maggie.

CONTINUED

83 CONTINUED-

83

I'll only be a minute. I have to  
secure the radio net.

OBSERVER  
(checking computer)  
Okay. SEAL One will be monitoring a  
tactical frequency on....  
(points)  
...that transmitter.

Sam picks up the mic.

SEAL One this is....

Bravo.

SAM  
...Bravo. Over.

As they wait for the answer, they hear the sound of a  
zipper unzipping. Al slowly turns his head. A smile  
forms on his face.

84 ON MAGGIE

84

She has unzipped her cammo jumpsuit and is stripping out  
of it.

I hope my getting ready for bed  
doesn't bother you.

85 BACK ON SAM AND AL

85

Sam is staring at the radio. Al is staring at Maggie.

SAM  
(tense)  
No. Not at all.  
(quickly into mic)  
SEAL One this is Bravo. Over.

OBSERVER  
(admiring)  
Wow....

CONTINUED

85 CONTINUED

85

XXX  
(chastising)  
Al!

86 ON MAGGIE

86

She is unsnapping her bra.

MAGGIE  
Al?

87 ON SAM AND AL

87

both intently staring in opposite directions.

SAM  
Al. It's ah...it's a code name.  
(pointedly for Al)  
They don't seem to be answering.

The Observer reluctantly prides his eyes from Maggie to the radio and then up to the frequency sheet tacked up above it.

OBSERVER  
Forty-three point seven? That's not right.  
(reading)  
Try forty-one point one.

Sam dials in the frequency and Al turns back to admiring Maggie. He frowns.

OBSERVER  
Av...she put her jammies on.

88 ANGLE INCLUDING MAGGIE

88

She's slipped into a pair of Chinese silk lounging pajamas, open at the neck, of course.

III  
SEAL One this is Bravo. Over.

Maggie opens her bag and pulls out a bottle of Scotch and two metal cups. She fills them.

BLACK RADIO VOICE  
Bravo. SEAL One. What's shaking, baby?

CONTINUED



88 CONTINUED

88

SAM

Ah...we're securing for the night.

Maggie walks past Al, who looks her over with wistful eyes, and sticks a cup under Sam's nose.

BLACK RADIO VOICE

Sleep tight and don't let Charlie bite. Seal One out.

[REDACTED]

Bravo out.

Sam snaps off the radio and reluctantly takes the Scotch Maggie's offering. Maggie clinks their cups in a toast.

MAGGIE

To those poor, magnificent bastards you're going after.

[REDACTED]

(puzzled)

I don't follow you?

OBSERVER

The Airborne sarache! He briefed her on the mission! He should be court-martialed!

SAM

Colonel Grimwald briefed you on tomorrow's mission.

MAGGIE

Mister West Point? No way. It was someone...higher up.

(beat)

But how I got it isn't important. What I do with it is.

89 ANOTHER ANGLE

89

Maggie sits down in Sam's lap, startling him and Al.

[REDACTED]

I'm a photojournalist, Magic. A damn good one. And there's not a good photojournalist who wouldn't sell their soul for a Pulitzer. And

[REDACTED]

CONTINUED

89 CONTINUED

89

MAGGIE (Cont'd)  
since your mission tomorrow is  
Pulitzer material, I want you to  
tell your Lieutenant Beckett you got  
that 'magic' feeling about me.

SAM  
That you'd bring us luck on the  
mission.

MAGGIE  
Un-huh.

SAM  
In exchange for what? Your soul?

MAGGIE  
Not just my soul, baby.

Maggie kisses Sam, trying to reach his tonsils with her  
tongue.

OBSERVER  
Woman, you picked the wrong man.

MAGGIE  
What do you say?

SAM  
(after a beat)  
Deal.

Al's mouth drops open, and we....

CUT TO

90 EXT. SEAL COMPOUND - NIGHT

90

Al has to half-run to keep up with Sam as he strides across  
the compound between the stacks of supplies and bunkers.

OBSERVER  
I'm the one who thinks with his  
glands. Not you!

SAM  
How'd you get the info on the  
sappers?

CONTINUED

90 CONTINUED.

90

OBSERVER

From a story Maggie wrote....

(getting it)

If Maggie goes on the mission,  
she'll write about it. Ziggy can  
pull it from the newspaper files.

(beat)

Sam, that's brilliant!

TOM'S VOICE

It's stupid. Really stupid.

CUT TO

91 INT. SEAL BUNKER - NIGHT

91

Tom is cleaning his Stoner on the small desk with Sam  
sitting across from him. Al is pacing back and forth while  
behind him the SEALs clean weapons, write letters, check  
gear...etc.

Magic, I thought you were smarter  
than this.

I swear to you, Tom. Maggie's vital  
to the success of the mission.

(beat)

I can't explain how I know. I just  
do.

You sound like my brother.

SAM  
(abashed)  
I do?

TOM  
He gets feelings about the future.  
(beat)  
When I was home for Thanksgiving, he  
scared the hell out of my folks.  
Told them I was going to die over  
here, on April the eighth.  
(forced smile)  
Made me promise I'd climb into the  
deepest, darkest hole I could find  
until that day was over.

CONTINUED

91 CONTINUED\_

91

SAM  
Today's April the eighth.

TOM  
I know.  
(smiles)  
But any hole deeper than three feet  
around here fills with water.

SAM  
If you made a promise, you should  
keep it.

TOM  
(changing the  
subject)  
Are you sure we need Maggie?

SAM  
I'd stake my life on it.

TOM  
That's what you'll be doing, Magic.  
Staking your life....  
(indicating)  
...and theirs.

■ CLOSE ON SAM

92

Over his reaction, we hear the engines of the PBR and....

CUT TO

93 EXT. MEKONG RIVER - DAY

93

The PBR churns a white wake in the sluggish brown water as  
it heads upriver.

SAM'S VOICE OVER  
Tom bought it. At least he agreed  
to let Maggie ride in the boat.

94 INT. RIVER PATROL BOAT - DAY

94

The SEALs are in green face and armed for combat. This  
time some of them have silencers on their weapons. Maggie  
is wearing her cammo jumpsuit and has two cameras slung  
across her shoulders. TiTi is standing beside the  
helmsman. Sam is seated next to Maggie and tensely  
listening to Tom.

CONTINUED

## SAM'S VOICE OVER

Once we were underway, I figured that history would change and Al appear with Maggie's story on the mission. But we were halfway to the insertion point and there was no sign of Al.

(beat)

I was starting to sweat and it wasn't the humidity.

\*\*\*

The village is in a free-fire zone so there will be no friendlies in the area. Now, let's go over our responsibilities again.

## CHIEF

Preacher and I go for Major Quan's hootch. Take out his bodyguards and capture him alive if possible.

## PREACHER

If not, we praise the Lord and....

(imitating a

silencer)

...Pfffffft. Pfffffft.

Tom looks to Shamoo.

## SHAMOO

Blaster and I neutralize guards around the target hootch.

Tom looks to Doc.

## DOC

Magio and I cover your butts and act like the seventh cavalry if needed.

## TOM

Magio, I want a radio check every hour on the hour. One click from you. Two clicks from the boat.

\*\*\*

Rog that.

## TOM

And you, Miss Dawson, are free to cover this mission as you see fit...as long as you don't leave the boat.

CONTINUED

94 CONTINUED (2)

94

MAGGIE

Aye, aye, Captain.

Even Tom smiles at her reply.

DEMPSEY

Don't you think it's time you told  
us what was in that hootch, Mister  
Beckett?

TOM

I've been kind of saving that.

WAMMO

We noticed.

TOM

Two, maybe three...American POWs.

BLASTER

Alright!

The other SEALs join in Blaster's enthusiastic cheer.

95 ON SAM AND MAGGIE

95

He's stunned. Maggie turns to him with a grin.

MAGGIE

I told you it was Pulitzer material.

OBSERVER'S VOICE

But not for her.

Sam turns and we adjust to include....

96 THE OBSERVER

96

standing alongside Sam looking pained. Sam stands and  
faces out so that no one can see him talking to Al.

SAM

(whispered)

POWs, Al!

OBSERVER

Who didn't get rescued.

SAM

What went wrong?

CONTINUED

96 CONTINUED-

96

OBSERVER  
We still don't know.

■ ■ ■  
You couldn't find Maggie's story?

OBSERVER  
She never filed it.  
(beat)  
She was killed on this mission.

On Sam's reaction, we....

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

97 EXT. MEKONG RIVER - DAY 97

The SEAL PBR navigates through the narrowing waterway with triple-canopy jungle looming above both sides.

SAM'S VOICE OVER  
It was happening, again. But not  
like it did the first time. Then  
only Tom was killed.

11 INT. SEAL PBR - DAY 98

Sam looks at Maggie as she snaps a picture of Blaster grinning from behind his awesome weapon.

SAM'S VOICE OVER  
Now Maggie was joining him and only  
God knew how many others.  
(beat)  
Maybe everyone on the boat.  
(beat)  
Maybe I had killed everyone on the  
boat!

TITI  
(pointing)  
There. Go in there.

The helmsman slows the boat and turns into what appears at first to be nothing more than a small hole in the jungle.

99 EXT. JUNGLE CANAL - DAY 11

The sun is reduced to a flickering presence beneath the thick green canopy. The PBR appears in the shadowy light and slowly pushes up the narrow scum-green canal toward camera.

OBSERVER'S VOICE  
(quiet whisper)  
I know you want to scream, Sam.

100 CLOSE ON SAM 100

His cammo makeup streaked with sweat. His eyes are wide with fear, for the others as much as himself.

CONTINUED



100 CONTINUED.

100

OBSERVER

(continuing)

To tell Tom to turn the boat around  
and run.

(beat)

It's too late. He'd never do it.  
Even if he believed you, he'd go on  
with the mission. He'd probably  
have Doc sedate you and leave you in  
the boat.

(beat)

You don't want that, do you?

Sam shakes his head.

OBSERVER

Just remember it ain't over and we  
still have an ace in the hole.

Sam turns and looks to Al.

101 CLOSE ON THE OBSERVER

101

He grins and his eyes twinkle with an impish delight.

OBSERVER

Me.

He punches the hand computer and disappears.

102 ANGLE ON THE BOAT

102

The instant it nudges into the muddy bank, Tom leads TiTi  
and his SEALs over the side into the waist-deep scum.

103 ON MAGGIE

103

snapping shots with her Nikon from behind the gunwales of  
the boat of the squad silently moving away. Behind her the  
MST crew trains their machine-guns on the jungle.

104 MOVING WITH THE SQUAD

104

They move with ghostly silence up the canal with Tom in the  
lead and TiTi at his side. Strung out behind them are  
Blaster, Shamoo, Dempsey, Preacher, Doc and Sam. Each man  
holds his weapon opposite the man in front of him.

105 ON A BOOBY TRAP WIRE

105

camouflaged with leaves, it is strung across the canal at water level. Tom is almost on it when TiTi stops him. She reaches down and indicates the wire. Tom nods and submerges, coming up on the other side of the wire.

106 WIDIR ANGLE

106

as one by one the SEALs submerge to pass the booby trap.

DISSOLVE TO

107 INT. RIVER PATROL BOAT - DAY

107

The MST is a little more relaxed than when they first touched shore. They've been here a while and nothing's happened. Boredom is setting in.

108 ON MAGGIE

108

drenched with sweat and half-asleep against the gunwale when she hears one click over the radio behind her. The helmsman picks up the mic and clicks it twice.

MAGGIE

Has it only been an hour?

MAGGIE

Waiting goes slow.

MAGGIE

And hard on the bladder. I don't suppose this yacht has a potty.

HELMSMAN

We just...go over the side.

MAGGIE

I'm not equipped for that.

She starts to climb ashore.

HELMSMAN

Lieutenant Beckett said you're not to leave the boat.

MAGGIE

Tell that to my bladder.  
(climbing over)  
I'll only be a minute.

The helmsman looks nervous, but doesn't stop her. As Maggie disappears into the jungle with her cameras, we....

DISSOLVE TO

- 109 EXT. JUNGLE CANAL - DAY 109
- The SEALs close slowly on us until Tom hand signals them to stop and take cover. They instantly melt into the thick foliage lining over the canal.
- 110 ON A NATIVE SAMPAN 110
- It emerges from a side canal being poled by the woman with the napalm-scarred face that we saw in river at sunset. Sitting in the boat in front of her are two black pajamaed VC. armed with AK-47s.
- 111 ON THE SCARRED WOMAN 111
- A movement catches her eye and she peers curiously at the bank.
- 112 WOMAN'S POV - TOM'S CAMOUFLAGED FACE 112
- He is impossible to see until TiTi's wide eyes appear peeking from behind him.
- 113 ON THE SAMPAN 113
- Before the woman can sound an alarm, Shamoo, Blaster and Dempsey explode from the slimy water and expertly dispatch the three VC with their K-bar knives.
- 114 ON SAM 114
- His eyes wide with shock and surprise.
- 115 ON THE SCENE 115
- As the slain VC slowly sink into the canal, Shamoo reaches into the sampan and holds up a satchel charge. (Note: everyone speaks in whispers.)

SHAMOO

MX-26a1

BLASTER

Must have stole it from the ARVNs.

DEMPSEY

Or bought it.

(to Tom)

Sappers, sir. Probably going out on a mission.

CONTINUED

115 CONTINUED\_

115

TOM

Keep the weapons. Dump the rest.

Tom turns to TiTi who is watching the scar-faced woman sink into the water. Tom touches her gently.

TOM

You know her?

TITI

No.

(all business)

Village is close. Maybe a hundred meters.

TOM

Magic. Doc.

(indicating)

Deploy here.

Sam nods and watches his brother follow TiTi up the canal. Blaster and Shamoo sling the AK-47s and dump the charges into the water. Chief Dempsey finds a PRC-9 and tosses it to Sam.

116 ON SAM

116

He catches the small radio and examines it. Something about it nudges his memory, but he can't quite grasp what. He pockets the radio and takes up a defensive position on one side of the canal and Doc takes the other. The squad moves silently around a bend and out of sight.

CUT TO

117 EXT. JUNGLE TRAIL - DAY

117

Maggie is sneaking down this well-worn path. She is terribly frightened and talking softly to herself.

MAGGIE

This is stupid, Maggie. Stupid.  
But it's how you get a Pulitzer.

She disappears into the foliage and we hold on a tripwire that she miraculously stepped over without realizing it.

CUT TO

118 EXT. JUNGLE CANAL - DAY - CLOSE ON SAM

118

He quietly swats the mosquitoes biting his face, then

CONTINUED

118 CONTINUED. 118

checks his watch and keys the backpack radio once. After a few seconds he gets two clicks in return. He pulls out the PRC-9 and reexamines it.

119 CLOSE ON THE PRC-9 119

The frequency is set to 43.7. Sam turns it on. Nothing.

OBSERVER'S VOICE

Sam!

Startled, he almost drops the radio.

120 ANGLE INCLUDING THE OBSERVER - BLUE SCREEN - SFX 120

incongruously standing on the water next to Sam in his immaculate dress whites.

OBSERVER

I found the POWs! The VC are moving them toward the river. Going to take them out on a boat.

\*\*\*

(holding up radio)

Al, look at this.

OBSERVER

(ignoring him)

We don't have time to get the squad. You and Doc'll have to do it.

121 ON DOC 121

watching Sam from the other side of the canal as if he's lost it.

122 DOC'S POV - SAM 122

talking to the invisible Al.

123 ANOTHER ANGLE 123

Sam holds the radio up for Al to see.

\*\*\*

This is set to forty-three point seven. That's the same frequency that was on the radio in the bunker last night.

CONTINUED

123 CONTINUED

123

OBSERVER

Sam. We gotta go, now!

We took this radio off sappers, Al!  
Forty-three point seven is a VC  
frequency!

Al is stunned. He realizes the implication.

OBSERVER

The Chieu Hoi.

SAM

Can I get to Tom in time?

Not in the canal.

DOC

Magic! What's happening, man?

SAM

I can't save him! I can't save him!

Doc reaches for his medical kit and wades across to Sam.

DOC

I'm giving you a shot, man.

SAM

(pushing him off)

No!

(to Al)

We've got to free the POWs!

124 CLOSE ON AL

124

His is the face of a man in turmoil.

CUT TO

125 EXT. JUNGLE CANAL - DAY - ON TITI

125

Her eyes are not so inscrutable now that we know she's  
leading the SEALs into an ambush.

CUT TO

126 EXT. JUNGLE TRAIL - DAY

126

Sam is running through the brush with a very scared and  
confused Doc on his tail.

126 CONTINUED

126

DOC  
You're gonna trip a booby trap!

TITI  
Don't sweat it.

127 ON THE OBSERVER

127

standing next to the trail with the hand computer beeping loudly.

OBSERVER  
One here, Sam.

Sam eases to a stop and steps over the wire.

SAM  
I got a sixth sense.

Doc is in awe as he steps over the wire. Al hits the computer and disappears.

CUT TO

128 EXT. JUNGLE CANAL - DAY

128

Titi slows to a stop and turns to Tom.

TITI  
(pointing)  
Village.

129 THEIR POV - JUNGLE VILLAGE

129

A few bamboo hootches can be seen bordering the canal, but there is no sign of anyone being about.

130 BACK ON TOM AND TITI

130

He nods and indicates that she should move to the rear. We follow as she drifts back past the members of the squad.

CUT TO

131 EXT. JUNGLE PATH - DAY

131

Sam works past another booby trap and hurries to where Al is waiting. Doc starts working past the trap.

CONTINUED

131 CONTINUED-

131

OBSERVER

The village is ahead. Charlie's in it and the bushes on both sides of the canal!

SAM

The village?

OBSERVER

The POWs will have to tough it out a while longer. Taking the trail got us here ahead of the squad.

SAM

(elated)

I can save Tom?

DOC

(catching up)

Who?

OBSERVER

I don't know. But we're going to give it a hell of a try.

Al turns and takes off with Sam on his heels and a confused Doc bringing up the rear.

CUT TO

132 EXT. JUNGLE VIET CONG AMBUSH - DAY

132

We slowly dolly across the backs of the VC hiding in the jungle bordering the canal. We stop on Major Quan, who is lying beside a VC with a RPK machine-gun.

133 CLOSE ON MAJOR QUAN

133

He adjusts the focus on his well-used binoculars.

134 BINO POV - THE CANAL

134

Nothing is moving on the sluggish water. Then Tom slips through the overhanging foliage and Blaster appears behind him.

135 BACK ON MAJOR QUAN

135

He lowers the binoculars and checks his men. Everyone is ready. He looks back to the canal and raises his arm.

CONTINUED



- 135 CONTINUED- 135
- SAM'S VOICE  
(yelling)  
Yoo-haw!
- The VC on the RPK are ripped apart by rounds from a Stoner.  
Major Quan spins and looks behind him to see....
- 136 SAM AND DOC 136
- charging through the rear of the village with their weapons  
blazing.
- 137 ON THE SEALS 137
- unleashing their awesome arsenal on the village from the  
canal.
- CUT TO
- 138 EXT. JUNGLE TRAIL - DAY 138
- Maggie freezes as the muffled sounds of the battle reach  
her. For an instant she isn't sure what to do, then she  
hears voices coming toward her and ducks into the  
underbrush.
- 139 CLOSE ON MAGGIE 139
- She focuses her long-lensed Nikon.
- 140 CAMERA POV - JUNGLE TRAIL 140
- Three American POWs, their flight suits in tatters and  
shackled together at the neck, come trotting down the trail  
with a pair of VC guards.
- 141 ON MAGGIE 141
- She snaps a photo, then ducks down until the POWs pass.  
Then she pops up to get another picture.
- 142 WIDE ON THE POWS 142
- The last American saw Maggie and as they disappear into the  
jungle, he looks back.

143 CLOSE ON MAGGIE

143

She snaps the photo and slowly lowers the camera. She is crying.

CUT TO

144 EXT. THE RIVER CANAL - DAY - FEATURE TOM

144

Although they are outnumbered ten to one, the SEAL's awesome firepower is suppressing the VC ambush.

TOM

Pull back to the boat! I'll cover!

Blaster appears beside him, launching 40mm as fast as he can fire them.

145 ON THE VILLAGE

145

It and the VC are being blown apart.

146 ON SAM AND DOC .

146

laying down a lethal field of fire with Al standing over them, cheering them on in his unsullied white uniform.

CUT TO

147 EXT. RIVER PATROL BOAT - DAY

147

Everyone is on their guns, listening to the sound of the battle growing nearer.

HELMSMAN

Elevate thirty degrees.

The gunners raise their barrels. Preacher sashes into view, firing back over his shoulder. Beside him Dempsey is half-carrying Shamoo, who's been hit.

HELMSMAN

Fire!

The crew opens up, firing over the heads of the returning SEALs.

CUT TO

148 EXT. JUNGLE CANAL - DAY

148

Tom empties his clip then ducks back into the bank to reload. TiTi appears on the bank above him with an AK-47 in her hands.

TOM  
(to TiTi)  
Get down!

He fires back up the canal.

149 ON TITI

149

She raises the AK-47 to execute Tom.

150 ON TOM

150

He looks up and instantly realizes she is going to kill him.

151 ON TITI

151

She's blown into the canal by a burst of machine-gun bullets and Sam appears in her place, his Stoner smoking.

152 ON TOM

152

He stares at TiTi's bloody, bullet-holed body as it sinks into the slime.

CUT TO

153 EXT. RIVER PATROL BOAT - DAY

153

The Minigun is all that's staving off the VC as the SEALs clamber over the gunwales.

CUT TO

154 EXT. JUNGLE TRAIL - DAY

154

The Observer is standing on the trail where he's found another booby trap. The PBR can be seen through the foliage less than fifty meters away.

OBSERVER  
Last one, Sam!

Sam appears on the trail, racing toward Al. Doc is behind him and Tom brings up the rear. Tom stops and fires back into the jungle.

154 CONTINUED

154

Suddenly Maggie runs out of the jungle near Al.

MAGGIE

Magic!

She steps toward Sam.

OBSERVER

Nooooooo!

SAM

Maggie stop!

155 CLOSE ON TRIPWIRE

155

as Maggie steps through it, triggering a tremendous explosion.

156 ON THE SCENE

156

All three men instinctively duck. Sam is the first to look up. He staggers forward to Maggie whose bloodied and smoking body lies at the Observer's feet.

SAM

Maggie! Oh, Maggie.

Tom continues the rearguard action as Doc joins Sam.

157 ~~FEATURE MAGGIE~~

157

Unable to speak, she weakly lifts her Nikon to Sam.

~~OBSERVER~~

I think she wants you to take her camera, Sam.

Maggie turns her head and looks at Al, her eyebrows knit in surprise as she sees him.

MAGGIE

(a whisper)

Pulitzer....

Then she dies.

158 ANOTHER ANGLE

158

The Observer looks down, truly touched.

~~OBSERVER~~

She saw me.

158 CONTINUED.

158

DOC  
She's dead.

TOM  
(running up)  
Oh, no.

Bullets rip through the foliage around them. Doc and Tom return the fire.

TOM  
Let's go!

SAM  
We can't leave her here.

TOM  
We leave her or join her!

OBSERVER  
Take her camera, Sam. That's all that's important to her now.. The camera.

159 CLOSE ON MAGGIE

159

Sam gently lifts the Nikon from around her neck.

160 ON THE RIVER PATROL BOAT

160

Every gun is firing as Sam, Doc and Tom race out of the jungle and scramble on board. The helmsman immediately kicks the engines into reverse and backs out of the canal.

161 EXT. MEKONG RIVER - DAY

161

Guns blazing, the PBR roars away from the jungle bloodbath.

162 INT. RIVER PATROL BOAT - DAY

162

One by one the SEALs empty their clips at the retreating jungle, then sag to the deck in utter exhaustion.

163 ON SAM

163

He sits and stares at the battered camera, biting his lip to choke back the anger and tears.

TOM'S VOICE  
You didn't kill her, Magic.

CUT TO

164 INT. CHOO-CHOO'S BAR - NIGHT

164

The music is blaring as Sam and Tom sits at the end of the bar with Al facing them from the other side. The SEALs are doing their countdown as Blaster executes fingertip pushups with two B-girls on his back. Shamoo has his arm in a sling. Chief Dempsey has a plaster patch on his head. All the SEALs look battered, but having fun as they drink the memories of the mission away. Sam and Tom are both drunk.

SAM

She sure as hell didn't die the first time April the eighth, Nineteen-seventy rolled around.

TOM

What are you talking about?

OBSERVER

No. But Tom did.

SAM

There it is, isn't it? I traded a life for a life.

TOM

Magic, you are one weird dude.

OBSERVER

When push came to shove you tried to complete the mission. I was the one who led you back to save your brother. If anyone's responsible, it's me!

SEALS

(finishing count)

Forty-eight. Forty-nine. Fifty!

165 FEATURE CHOO-CHOO

165

He goes through the agony, again.

CHOO-CHOO

Not human!

Blaster collapses on the bar and remembers Maggie's sexy comment the last time he did this. Choo-Choo starts passing out the beers.

166 ANGLE ON THE DOOR

166

Colonel Deke enters carrying a packet. He spots Tom and joins them, tossing the packet to Tom.

CONTINUED

166 CONTINUED

166

COLONEL DEKE

Here they are. Maggie's last photos.

Tom starts shuffling through them.

TOM

She was a hell of a photographer.

COLONEL DEKE

She was a hell of a woman.

SAM

And I killed her.

OBSERVER/TOM

Stop it!

OBSERVER

What did she tell you in the bunker the other night?

SAM

She'd sell her soul for a Pulitzer.

COLONEL DEKE

And a lot more.

TOM

I wish she'd have got it.

OBSERVER

She did.

SAM

What?

TOM

The Pulitzer Prize. I wish she could have won the Pulitzer Prize.

OBSERVER

The last picture did.

Sam looks to Al, then shuffles through the pictures to the last one. He stares at it, stunned.

167 CLOSE ON PHOTOGRAPH

167

It's the shot of the POW looking back over his shoulder. Although his face is gaunt and weary, it also has a defiantly impish grin. The POW is Al.

168 FEATURE SAM AND AL

168

He looks up from the photo, stunned by the realization that Al gave up being rescued to save his brother's life.

OBSERVER

What the hell, I get repatriated in five years.

TOM

Hey! Hey it's midnight!

(elated)

It's midnight and I'm alive!

(beat)

He was wrong. My little brother was wrong!

OBSERVER

I'll drink to that.

Sam throws a look to Al, and....

QUANTUM LEAPS

FADE OUT

END OF ACT FOUR